David Lai

Principal Web Engineer | Frontend Architect | GraphQL & Web Application Specialist
http://www.linkedin.com/pub/david-lai/0/11/372 | https://github.com/dlai0001

10+ years building high-scale web platforms, leading front-end architecture, and designing GraphQL and service-oriented solutions. Experience driving technical strategy, modernizing legacy systems, mentoring engineers, and partnering with product/security stakeholders across organizations. Strong breadth across React/Angular, Node, GraphQL, AWS, and distributed system design.

Skills:

Frontend: React, React Native, Angular, Material UI, TypeScript, D3, Web Performance, Front-end Architecture

Backend / APIs: Node.js, ExpressJS, Apollo GraphQL, GraphQL Schema Design, Python/Django, Java/Spring Boot, REST API design, Microservices Architecture

Cloud / Infrastructure: AWS (Certified Solutions Architect Associate), AWS Lambda, DynamoDB, Docker, CI/CD, AWS Secrets Manager, AWS Cert Manager, Open Telemetry, ELK Stack, Splunk, New Relic

Programming Languages: JavaScript/TypeScript, Python, Java, C#, SQL

Best Practices: DDD, OOP, Automated Testing, Debugging (JS/Node), RFCs/Tech Specs, System Design, Stakeholder leadership, UML Architecture, AWS Well Architected Framework, EVA Architecture

Professional Work Experience:

Capital One: Principal Engineer   Jan 2023 - Present
- Front-end : Angular
- Back-end : Spring-Boot, AWS Lambda, DynamoDB
- Responsibilities: Spec designs, implementation, Infrastructure (AWS), Onboarding new lines of businesses to using our home grown identity solutions.
- Work with security researchers to implement the latest cybersecurity measures.
- Mentor Jr. Engineers and Interns.
- Notable projects: App migration to AWS Secrets Manager, Redesign of Case Details Page, Migration to using AWS Cert Manager, Worked with notable external partners to onboard identity solutions.

PlayVs: Front End Lead / GraphQL developer   Sept 2020 - Oct 2022
- Lead front end architecture and development, designing and maintaining the GraphQL schema, and backend development. (80%/20% FE/BE dev ratio)
- Writing RFCs and Tech Specs setting up best practices and future direction of our technology.
- Working with UI designers and product owners to reimagine the product using modern ui frameworks and design.

- Notable projects: Revamped Onboarding flow, Notification Center, Revamped Dashboard, Revamped UI theming system, Billing usage data visualization

Workwell: Lead Developer   July 2019 - Sep 2020

- React Native / Graphql / Django Graphene full stack development
- Architected web/react native app
- Developed and shipped features such as account management, chat via websockets, typeahead search, drag and drop file uploads, graphql subscriptions.

SurfAir: Full-stack Developer   July 2018 - June 2019

- NodeJS/Express, Python/Django, AngularJS, React
- Worked with member management and accounting to maintain and develop new features for e-commerce, billing systems (Zuora), and flight reservation systems.
- Migrated legacy systems in AngularJS and NodeJS to Python/Django and React.
- Developed and supported e-commerce and flight booking APIs.

Breeze Orthodontics: General Manager   July 2017 - July 2018

- HR, Operations Manager, Logistics, Training, Sales & Marketing, IT, 3D Smile Design
- Online marketing - Hubspot, Google Analytics, Adwords, Website Design
- Turned around a dental practice losing -$40k/year to generating over $300k income/yr
- Implemented 3D printing and 3D smile design process
- Hire, train, and manage both office and chair side staff.

Shippabo: Full-stack Developer   Feb 2017 - July 2017

- MEAN Stack - Mongo Express AngularJS NodeJS
- Developed real time chat collaboration feature using SocketIO and AngularJS
- Created responsive emails using react based email framework, MJML.
- Generated PDF documents using headless browser and CSS.
- Backend ecom integrations with accounting system Xero

15+ years of SDET Experience prior to switching careers to web development.
(Available upon request)

Education:

Masters in Business Administration, MBA - Pepperdine Graziadio Business School 2018

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science - UC Santa Barbara, 2003

Product Management Intensive Course - General Assembly, 2013

AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate 2023 -
https://www.credly.com/badges/1741d3ee-5735-4d77-885d-6f9f15863fa1/linked_in_profile

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Awards & Honors

1st Place, Techweek LA hackathon   **Nov 1-2, 2014**

Created a responsive mobile web app that help people adopt dogs via a Tinder-like interface.
http://challengepost.com/software/adoptable

2nd Place, Hack4LA hackathon   **June 1-2, 2013**

Helping people share their wasted produce. Won trip to the White House Data.gov unveiling.
http://challengepost.com/software/urbanfruit-ly